

## CLAIMS

1. A method for controlling an application in an instant messaging environment comprising:

5 selecting, at a first client, the application in the instant messaging environment;

configuring an instant messaging control message for the application, including an identifier related to the application selected at the first client;

sending the instant messaging control message to a second client; and

10 executing the application in the instant messaging environment using the control message to retrieve the application from a server.

2. A method as recited in claim 1 further including displaying the results of executing the application in the instant messaging environment in an instant messaging window.

15 3. A method as recited in claim 1 further including playing the results of executing the application in the instant messaging environment in a player.

20 4. A method as recited in claim 1 further including viewing the results of executing the application in the instant messaging environment in a viewer.

5. A method as recited in claim 1 further including arbitrating data received from a third client based on executing the application in the instant messaging environment.

25 6. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein selecting, at a first client, the application in the instant messaging environment further includes selecting the application from a list of instant messaging applications.

7. A method as recited in claim 1 further including simultaneously sharing interaction with the application between the first client and the second client.

8. A method for controlling an application in an instant messaging environment  
5 comprising:

selecting a control feature in the instant messaging environment;  
configuring a control message based on selecting the control feature;  
sending the control message from a first instant messaging client to a  
second instant messaging client; and  
10 implementing the control feature in the instant messaging environment.

9. A method as recited in claim 8 further including:  
evaluating the application in an instant messaging environment; and  
determining a supporting application for executing the application in an  
15 instant messaging environment.

10. A method as recited in claim 8 further including displaying the results of  
executing the application to two or more instant messaging users in a simultaneous  
manner.  
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11. A system for controlling an instant messaging application comprising:  
an environment providing an instant messaging medium and for executing  
the instant messaging application; and  
a message including an instruction set for executing the instant messaging  
25 application in the environment.

12. A system as recited in claim 11 further including an interface for configuring  
the environment and the message.

13. A system as recited in claim 11 further including a window for displaying a result of executing the instant messaging application.

14. A system as recited in claim 11 wherein the instant messaging application  
5 includes a video file.

15. A system as recited in claim 11 wherein the instant messaging application includes an audio file.

10 16. A system as recited in claim 11 wherein the instant messaging application includes an instruction set for viewing data.

17. A system as recited in claim 11 wherein the instant messaging application includes an instruction set for using a supporting application to execute the instant  
15 messaging application.

18. A system as recited in claim 11 wherein the message further includes the instant messaging application and an instruction set for using a supporting application to execute the instant messaging application.  
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19. A system as recited in claim 11 wherein the message further includes the instant messaging application and a supporting application to execute the instant messaging application.

20. A computer program product for controlling an application in an instant messaging environment, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

- 5       selecting, at a first client, the application in the instant messaging environment;
- configuring an instant messaging control message for the application, including an identifier related to the application selected at the first client;
- sending the instant messaging control message to a second client in the instant messaging environment; and
- 10       executing the application in the instant messaging environment using the control message to retrieve the application from a server.

21. A computer program product for controlling an application in an instant messaging environment, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

- 15       selecting a control feature in the instant messaging environment;
- configuring a control message based on selecting the control feature;
- sending the control message from a first instant messaging client to a second instant messaging client;
- 20       retrieving the application from a server based on the control message; and
- executing the application in an instant messaging environment.